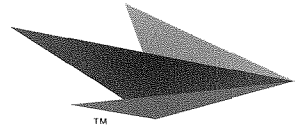


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Embarq
Mailstop: KSOPKJ0401
5454 West 110th Street
Overland Park, KS 66211
EMBARQ.com

October 20, 2006

Marlene H. Dortch, esquire
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Petitions of the Verizon Telephone Companies for Forbearance Pursuant to 47
U.S.C. §160(c) in the Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence,
and Virginia Beach Metropolitan Statistical Areas,
WC Docket No. 06-172

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am submitting herewith a copy of the letter Embarq provided to the Verizon Telephone Companies ("Verizon") in accordance with the procedures described in the Protective Order released September 14, 2006, requesting access to Verizon's confidential filings in the above-referenced proceeding. The attached letter contains copies of the signed acknowledgements of confidentiality of counsel and regulatory analyst of Embarq, agreeing to be bound by the Protective Order.

Please inform me if any questions should arise in connection with this submission.

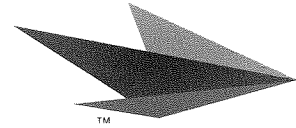
Respectfully submitted,

Craig T. Smith

CTS:kmm
Enclosures

Craig T. Smith
SENIOR COUNSEL
Voice: (913) 345-6691
Fax: (913) 345-7885
craig.t.smith@embarq.com

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October 20, 2006

Edward Shakin
Verizon
1515 North Court House Road, Ste. 500
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Evan T. Leo
Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel, P.L.L.C.
1516 M Street, N.W., Ste. 400
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Petitions of the Verizon Telephone Companies for Forbearance Pursuant to 47
U.S.C. §160(c) in the Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence,
and Virginia Beach Metropolitan Statistical Areas,
WC Docket No. 06-172

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of Embarq, and in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Protective Order adopted on September 14, 2006, in the referenced proceeding, I am enclosing copies of the acknowledgements of confidentiality of seven persons employed by Embarq who will require access to confidential versions of Verizon's filing in this proceeding. Acknowledgements are being submitted for the following individuals:

Regulatory Analysts for Embarq

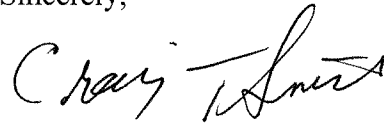
J. Michael Maples
John M. Felz

Embarq requests that the individuals listed above be granted access to all of Verizon's confidential filings in this proceeding. Access to full versions of Verizon's filings will be necessary for Embarq to formulate a complete response to the assertions contained in Verizon's forbearance petitions. Copies of this letter and the attached acknowledgements of confidentiality are also being provided to the Commission today as indicated in the attached letter.

Craig T. Smith
SENIOR COUNSEL
Voice: (913) 345-6691
Fax: (913) 345-7885
craig.t.smith@embarq.com

Please let me know if any questions arise in connection with this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig T. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Craig T. Smith

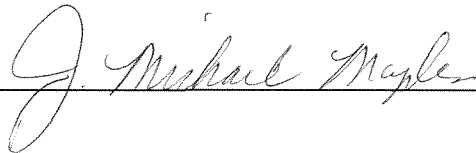
CTS:kmm
Enclosures

ATTACHMENT A

WC DOCKET NO. 06-172

I have received a copy of the Protective Order in WC Docket No. 06-172. I have read the order and agree to comply with and be bound by the terms and conditions of this Protective Order. The signatory understands, in particular, that unauthorized disclosure, or the use of the information for competitive commercial or business purposes, will constitute a violation of this Protective Order.

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Michael Maples", is written over a horizontal line.

NAME:

J. Michael Maples

TITLE:

Senior Manager, Regulatory Policy

ADDRESS:

5454 West 110th Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66211

REPRESENTING:

Embarq

EMPLOYER:

Embarq

DATE:

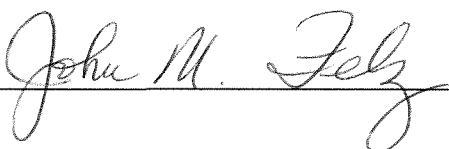
October 20, 2006

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SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John M. Felz", is written over a horizontal line.

NAME:

John M. Felz

TITLE:

Director – State Regulatory

ADDRESS:

5454 West 110th Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66211

REPRESENTING:

Embarq

EMPLOYER:

Embarq

DATE:

October 20, 2006